

**Amendments to the Specification**

**Please replace the paragraph starting on page 7, line 27, with the following paragraph:**

Next, projection lens 609 projects laser beam 602A at an opening of mask 608 on target workpiece 610. Since the positions of mask 608 and target workpiece 610 are conjugated with respect to projection lens 609, the intensity of laser beam 602A is uniformly distributed on target workpiece 610. Since the size of mask 608 is variable, the intensity distribution area of laser beam 602A on target workpiece 610, given by the multiple of the size of mask 608 and projection lens 609-608, is changed as required. Light-focusing optical system 603, optical transmission system 604, intensity-converting element 605, phase-matching element 606, scaling projection optical system 607, mask 608, and projection lens 609 are disposed on the optical axis of laser beam 602A without positional deviation or inclination.